**A HEAVENLY HOMECOMING**

**Luke 13:29**

**29And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.**

**INTRO:**

**When I read this scripture, it took me back to when I was a kid when we had the Thomas Family Reunion.**

**Illustration: On every third Sunday in May, Morganton Baptist Church had what they called “Decoration Day.”**

**That was the day that families came and decorated the cemetery with flowers. That was also the day that my Grandpa Thomas set aside as the day that all of his eight kids and their families would meet and have a homecoming at his house after church that Sunday morning.**

 **Now when I was a kid, my grandpa and grandma had passed on, and we had the family reunion and homecoming at our house. We moved the family car out from under the carport and set a big table out there to set the food on. And sort of like this scripture, our family would come in from everywhere for homecoming; some came from the east, some from the west, some from the north, and some from the south. It was a day that I looked forward to every year because it was almost as good as Christmas!**

**Application: Now that I am older, I’m looking forward to another family reunion – another kind of homecoming – a Heavenly Homecoming. There will be people coming from the east, the west, the north, and the south, and we will sit down at the homecoming table in the kingdom of God! And by the way, it will be better than Christmas!!**

**\*\*Now let me tell you about three Heavenly Homecomings!**

**I. There is an Eternal Heavenly Homecoming**

**The Revelation 7:9-10** [**9**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Revelation-7-9/)**After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;** [**10**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Revelation-7-10/)**And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.**

**\*\*This Eternal Heavenly Homecoming Promises . . .**

 **A. Happiness for the Faithful**

**\*\*Everybody will be happy over there because of . . .**

 **1. The Savior**

**The Revelation 21:22-23 [22](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Revelation-21-22/%22%20%5Co%20%22View%20more%20info%20for%20Revelation%2021%3A22)And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.** [**23**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Revelation-21-23/)**And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof.**

 **a. We’ll be happy because of His Presence**

 **b. We’ll be happy because of His Power**

 **c. We’ll be happy because of His Purpose**

 **2. The Saints**

**The Revelation 7:9** [**9**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Revelation-7-9/)**After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb,**

**\*\*So often I am a misfit in this world, but over there I’ll be at home with my people and my kindred! I’ll feel at home!**

 **a. My people and my kindred will be Reunited**

 **b. My people and my kindred will be Rejoicing**

 **c. My people and my kindred will be Reaping**

 **d. My people and my kindred will be Resting**

 **B. Hope for the Future**

**\*\*When I go to my heavenly home, some things cannot follow me home to this Eternal Heavenly Homecoming!**

**The Revelation 21:4** [**4**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Revelation-21-4/)**And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

**1. Sorrow Can’t Follow Me to that Heavenly Homecoming**

 **a. There will be no Sorrowful Mourning**

 **b. There will be no Sorrowful Memories**

**2. Satan Can’t Follow Me to that Heavenly Homecoming**

 **a. There will be no more Accusations from Satan**

 **b. There will be no more Afflictions from Satan**

**3. Sickness Can’t Follow Me to that Heavenly Homecoming**

 **a. Sickness will never cause any more Pain over there!**

 **b. Sickness will never cause any more Parting over there!**

**4. Sin Can’t Follow Me to that Heavenly Homecoming**

 **a. I’ll never deal with the Temptations of Sin any more.**

 **b. I’ll never deal with the Troubles of Sin any more.**

 **c. I’ll never deal with the Torture of Sin any more.**

 **d. I’ll never deal with the Tears of Sin any more.**

**5. Sinners Can’t Follow Me to that Heavenly Homecoming**

 **a. The Vile and Unbelieving Sinner can’t go to my home.**

 **b. The Vulgar and Unsaved Sinner can’t go to my home.**

 **c. The Violent and Undone Sinner can’t go to my home.**

**\*\*There is an Eternal Heavenly Homecoming that promises Happiness for the Faithful and Hope for the Future!**

**\*\*Illustration: Henry Morrison was a missionary in Africa for forty years and was finally going back by boat to where he was raised in New York. On that same boat to New York was President Theodore Roosevelt. When the boat came into the harbor, a large crowd had gathered and cheered in great celebration. The preacher later said, “I realized when I got off that boat that no one was there to celebrate me home. That’s when the Lord spoke to my heart and said, ‘Henry, you’re not home yet!’”**

***SONG: What a day that will be, when my Jesus I shall see.***

***When I look upon His face, the One who saved me by His grace.***

***When He takes me by the hand, and leads me through that promised land, What a day, glorious day, that will be!***

**II. There is an Exodus Heavenly Homecoming**

**I Thessalonians 4:16-17** [**16**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Thessalonians-4-16/)**For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:** [**17**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Thessalonians-4-17/) **Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

**\*\*If you look toward the East one day and see clouds gathering, that just might be the day that we have an Exit Heavenly Homecoming!**

 **A. The Savior will make an Entrance**

[**16**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Thessalonians-4-16/)**For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God:**

 **1. We will hear a Mighty Holler**

 **2. We will hear a Majestic Horn**

 **B. The Saved will make an Escape**

**\*\*We’re going to escape this old world of troubles and trials!**

**1. The Past Believers will have Homecoming in the Clouds.**

**2. The Present Believers will have Homecoming in the Clouds.**

**\*\*Though it will be brief, there will be a Heavenly Homecoming in the clouds and in Christ when we exit!**

**III. There is an Earthly Heavenly Homecoming**

**\*\*There is a Heavenly Homecoming that occurs on Earth!**

**\*\* It happens every time . . .**

 **A. A Lost Soul Repents and Gets Right**

**\*\*What a wonderful Heavenly Homecoming it is when a lost soul repents and gets right with the Lord!**

 **1. This Salvation comes through Repentance**

**John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

 **a. You can be Saved! - Jesus is still the way!**

 **b. You can be Sure! - Jesus is still the truth!**

 **c. You can be Satisfied! – Jesus is still the life!**

 **2. The Spirit comes through Regeneration**

**John 14:17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

 **a. The Spirit’s purpose is to Indwell**

 **b. The Spirit’s purpose is to Invest**

 **c. The Spirit’s purpose is to Instruct**

 **d. The Spirit’ purpose is to Inspire**

 **B. A Lost Sheep Returns and Gets Restored**

**\*\*What a wonderful Heavenly Homecoming it is when a lost sheep returns and gets restored with the Lord!**

**1. It’s a blessing to see a lost sheep that wants to be Home!**

 **a. That person wants to cut all ties from the World.**

 **b. That person wants to cut all ties from the Wicked.**

**2. It’s a blessing to see a lost sheep that wants to be Helped!**

 **a. They want to be Living by the Scripture!**

 **b. They want to be Loved by the Savior!**

**3. It’s a blessing to see a lost sheep that wants to be Holy!**

 **a. They’re tired of sin and want to live a Sanctified Life!**

 **b. They’re tired of sin and want to live a Spirit-filled Life!**

**\*\*It’s a Earthly Heavenly Homecoming when a Lost Soul or a Lost Sheep wants to get Home, wants to get Help, wants to get Holy, and wants to stay Home, stay Honest, and stay Holy!**

**CLOSE**

**1. There’s a Heavenly Homecoming that is Continuous! I’ll be there! How about you?**

**2. There’s a Heavenly Homecoming that’s in Clouds!**

**I’ll be there! How about you?**

**3. There’s a Heavenly Homecoming that’s in Christ!**

**I’ve been there! How about you?**

 **a. I’ve been that Lost Soul that was looking for a Home, got right and received a Homecoming!**

 **b. I’ve been that Lost Sheep that was longing for a Home, got restored, and received a Homecoming!**

**\*\* Because I have been to that Heavenly Homecoming that’s in Christ, I now know I’ll be in that Heavenly Homecoming that’s in the Clouds, and that is Continuous!**